

solution in water and glycerine, and a dose of about $\frac{1}{50}$ of a grain. No results were obtained on temperature, pulse, or quantity of urine; the results were completely negative. Some inconveniences were experienced, however, from the injections, painful inflammations and tedious, lasting abscesses.

These results are quite different from those reported by Otto in a previous number of the same journal, who obtained positive results from digitaline injections, on the pulse, temperature, etc.

THE EFFECTS OF STRYCHNIA ON THE HEALTHY AND THE DISEASED EYE.—By Dr. Hippel. The experiments of the author made upon himself, had for an end the knowledge, whether strychnia produced an augmentation of visual sensibility, and whether it developed any subjective visual phenomena of light and color. Strychnia was administered by sub-cutaneous injections, six of which were made in the temporal region, and one in the fore arm. The doses varied from two to four milligrammes, and the phenomena observed, were as follows:

1. Augmentation of the peripheral sensibility to the color blue.
2. Temporary increase of the visual power.
3. A clearer perception of peripheral points.
4. Durable enlargement of the visual field.

The result of the author's experiments on the diseased eye, is that strychnia produces on the optic nerve, the same effects as those attributed to the constant electric current on the other nerves. Strychnia may still have a very powerful effect on the atrophied optic nerve, even in cases where other means are inefficacious. (*Gaz. Med. Ital. Lombard*) *La France Médicale*, No. 31.

THE COMBINED USE OF MORPHIA AND ATROPIA IN SPASMODIC ASTHMA.

—Dr. G. Oliver in the *Practitioner* for February, gives his experience in the use of the combination of morphia and atropia, by sub-cutaneous injection in spasmodic asthma. He maintains that they are superior to morphia alone, in that their good effect is more speedy and complete, and that they produce no gastric disturbance, that they can be safely used, very frequently without injury to the general health, both as a prophylactic and as a curative means, and that the injections are followed by very speedy relief, five, and at the farthest twenty minutes being sufficient to produce relief.

PUPILLARY MODIFICATIONS PRODUCED BY THERAPEUTIC AGENTS.—Dr. Fernand Leblanc passes in review the medicines that act on the pupil; he shows that in certain cases, these modifications may guide the physician in the administration of certain drugs: morphia, as has been shown by

Dr. Vibert, and chloroform as has been observed by MM. Budin and Coyne. M. Leblanc classes as follows, the drugs that act on the pupil:

The one kind modify the pupil, so to speak, directly, by a special and characteristic action on the iris, or at least, on the extremities of its nerves; of these are the majority of the solanaceae and the ordeal bean of Calabar.

Another kind affect it only secondarily, and by the mediation of various phenomena; of this kind are the re-constituents, the emetics, the dyscrasic alteratives, and also the vermifuges. These substances, whose effect on the pupil may be stated as an indirect rebound, act sometimes by removing the causes which retain the iris in a pathological condition, usually of abnormal dilatation, sometimes in producing a condition generally susceptible to being physiologically accompanied, whatever may be its direct origin, by mydriasis or myosis. The pupil is influenced in the sense of being enlarged, by states of depression, anaemia, neurasthenia, nausea, vomiting, gastric and intestinal irritations, asphyxia, syncope, spasm, etc. They are contracted, on the other hand, in cases of sthenic stimulation, non-comatose slumber, encephalic hyperemia, etc.

Finally, other drugs act on the whole nervous system, either the cerebro-spinal, or sympathetic, and here we find the third and last mechanism controlling the muscular fibres of the iris; whose modifications then correspond almost exactly to those of the circulation. (*Thèse de Paris Dec. 27, 1875.*) *Bull. Gén. de Thérapeutique.*

NEW POISONOUS PRODUCTS FROM DAMAGED MAIZE.—Prof. C. Lombroso, *Centralbl. f. d. Med. Wissenschaften.* No. 13, Mar. 25, reports that Prof. Brugnatelli has been able to isolate from damaged Indian corn, a product having all the chemical, and nearly all the physiological properties of strychnia. He tested it on frogs, fowls, insects, fish and mammals, with results that left him no doubt that he had to do with a similar substance to strychnia, and moreover, by additional experiments on these animals with an aid derived from this damaged maize, he observed other phenomena of poisoning, different from those of strychnia, which led him to believe that still another narcotic and paralyzing poison existed. By careful labor he succeeded in isolating another substance which he calls a watery extract, which, without producing any symptoms like those of strychnia, caused narcosis or death with clonic convulsions. Both substances were corrosive to the tissues.

APOMORPHINE.—Paszkowski, *Przeglad lekarski.* 34-36, 1875, (Abstr. in *Centralbl.* No. 3) details the results of experiments performed by himself on the action of chloride of apomorphine on healthy persons. He found that too small doses of the drug acted injuriously, and that this was due,